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**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
GROUP ART UNIT:
PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Bengt GUSS *et al.* :
Serial No. 09/147,405 : Exr: S. Devi
Filed: April 1, 1999 : Art Unit: 1645
For: New Fibrinogen Binding Protein Originating
From Coagulase-Negative Staphylococcus

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AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the office action dated October 3, 2001, the period for response to which is set to expire on January 3, 2002. Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the below claims as follows:

1. (Four times amended) A purified *Staphylococcus epidermidis* protein or polypeptide having fibrinogen binding activity.

25. (Twice amended) A vaccine composition including the protein according to claim 1.